

IN THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims is set forth below. Cancelled and withdrawn claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented) or (not entered).

Please **CANCEL** claims 3 and 4.

Please **AMEND** claims 1-2, 5-12 as follows.

AI 1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A communication promotion method used in a chat system having a plurality of chat devices which share any of virtual chat spaces being configured on a network and which ~~can~~ send and receive messages among themselves, comprising:

linking or installing in ~~the~~each chat device a character that can be operated according to a predetermined operation instruction received by the chat device via the network from a chat administrator of the chat space of the chat devices,

detecting by the chat administrator a predetermined event occurring within the chat space of the chat devices,

determining at the chat administrator ~~one or~~ a plurality of different operation instructions for operating ~~the~~each chat device character, based on the detected event,

determining at the chat administrator ~~one or~~ a plurality of different chat devices in the chat space that operate the characters, as determined different operation instruction destinations to be sent ~~among the determined plurality of the different operation instructions~~instruction from among the chat devices sharing the chat space, and

sending by the chat administrator the determined plurality of the different operation instructions~~an operation instruction~~ via the chat system to ~~the chat device that is the determined different operation instruction destination and~~destinations operating ~~the~~each character.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The communication promotion method set forth in claim 1, wherein an operation instruction's originating address, an operation instruction's destination address, and an event detection time, are sent to the determined operation instruction destinations ~~destination~~ together with the operation instruction.

3. (CANCELLED)

4. (CANCELLED)

A1 5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An administration device used in a chat system having a plurality of chat devices which share any of virtual chat spaces being configured on a network and which can send and receive messages among themselves, comprising:

an association table that relationally stores a predetermined event occurring in the chat space with participating chat devices, and a corresponding plurality of different predetermined operation instruction that operates instructions corresponding to a plurality of different operation instruction destinations to operate a character linked to or installed in the each operation instruction destination chat device, and the operation instruction destination,

~~detection means for a chat event detector~~ detecting a predetermined event, based on the association table,

~~first determination means for an operation instruction determiner~~ determining one or a the plurality of the different operation instructions in accordance with for the detected event, based on the association table,

~~second determination means for a destination determiner~~ determining one or a the plurality of the different operation instruction destination chat devices to be sent transmitted the determined plurality of the different operation instruction from among the chat devices sharing the chat space instructions, based on the association table, and

~~communication means for sending a transmitter~~ transmitting the determined plurality of the different operation instruction instructions via the chat system to the chat device that is the each corresponding different operation instruction chat device in order to operate the each character.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The administration device set forth in claim 5, wherein ~~said communication means sends~~ the transmitter transmits an originating address of each determined operation instruction, a destination address of each determined operation instruction, and an event detection time, to the each corresponding different operation instruction destination chat device together with the determined operation instruction.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The administration device set forth in claim 5,

additionally comprising a ~~control means that selects one or a~~controller selecting a plurality of operation instructions based on predetermined conditions when ~~at~~the plurality of ~~the~~ operation instructions ~~occurs~~occur with ~~the~~a same chat device as the destination, and ~~send~~ssending the selected plurality of the operation instruction~~(s)~~instructions to ~~the same~~ chat device.

A1 8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The administration device set forth in claim 5, wherein when a plurality of ~~the~~ characters ~~is~~are linked to or installed in ~~a~~the chat device, ~~said second determination means can determine~~the destination determiner determines one or ~~a~~the plurality of ~~the~~ characters to operate from among the chat device's~~chat device~~ characters, based on an event, and ~~said communication means~~the transmitter sends ~~an~~a determined operation instruction ~~that includes~~including a character specification to the ~~corresponding operation instruction destination~~ chat device associated with the character in order to operate the character~~characters~~.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A character linked to or installed in a chat device which is connected to a network and which shares any of virtual chat spaces being configured on said network and which ~~can send and receives~~sends and receives messages, comprising:

an input unit to receive character operation instructions;

~~communication means for~~a communicator sending input operation instructions and receiving operation instructions for operating the character, between the chat device and the character, and

~~operation means for operating~~a controller controlling the character based on said received operation instruction~~instructions~~.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An administration device used in a chat system having a plurality of chat devices which share any of virtual chat spaces being configured on a network and which ~~can send and receive~~ messages among themselves, comprising:

an association table that relationally stores a predetermined event occurring in thea chat space with participating chat devices, and a corresponding plurality of differentan operation instruction ~~that operates~~instructions corresponding to a plurality of different operation instruction destinations to operate a character linked to or installed in ~~the~~each operation instruction destination chat device, ~~and an operation instruction destination,~~

~~detection means for~~a chat event detector detecting a predetermined event, based on the association table,

determination means ~~for a determiner~~ determining ~~an~~ the plurality of the different operation instruction ~~in accordance with~~ instructions for the detected event, based on the association table, and

AI communication means ~~for sending a transmitter~~ transmitting the determined plurality of the different operation instruction ~~instructions to the chat device's character in order~~ each corresponding different operation instruction destination chat device to operate ~~the~~ each character.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium recording an administration program ~~used in any~~ controlling chat device in a chat system in which a plurality of chat devices ~~which share any of virtual chat spaces operating on a network can~~ and send and receive messages among themselves; ~~the administration program executing the steps of,~~ according to a process comprising:

A. ~~Preparing~~ preparing an association table that relationally stores a predetermined event occurring in ~~the~~ a chat space ~~with participating chat devices, and a~~ corresponding plurality of different predetermined operation instruction ~~that operates~~ instructions corresponding to a plurality of different operation instruction destinations to operate a character linked to or installed in ~~saideach operation instruction destination~~ chat device, ~~and an operation instruction destination,~~

B. ~~Detecting~~ detecting a predetermined event, based on the association table,

C. ~~Determining one or a~~ determining the plurality of the different operation instructions ~~in accordance with~~ for the detected event, based on the association table,

D. ~~Determining one or a~~ determining the plurality of the different operation instruction destination chat devices to be sent ~~transmitted~~ the determined plurality of the different operation instruction ~~from among the chat devices sharing said chat space~~ instructions, based on the association table, and

E. ~~Sending an~~ transmitting the determined plurality of the different operation instruction ~~instructions~~ via the chat system to ~~the chat device that is the~~ each corresponding different operation instruction destination chat device ~~in order to~~ operate ~~the~~ each character.

A/ 12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium recording an administration program ~~used in controlling~~ chat devices which share any of virtual chat spaces being configured on a network and ~~can~~ send and receive messages among themselves, according to a process comprising; ~~the administration program executing the stages of:~~

A. ~~Preparing~~ preparing an association table that relationally stores a predetermined event occurring in ~~the~~ a chat space with participating chat devices, and a corresponding plurality of different predetermined operation instruction that operates instructions corresponding to a plurality of different operation instruction destinations to operate a character linked to or installed in ~~the~~ each operation instruction destination chat device, ~~and an operation instruction destination,~~

B. ~~Detecting~~ detecting a predetermined event, based on the association table,

C. ~~Determining an operation instruction in accordance with~~ determining the plurality of the different operation instructions for the detected event, based on the association table, and

D. ~~Sending the~~ transmitting the determined plurality of the different operation instruction instructions to ~~the~~ each corresponding different operation instruction destination chat device ~~chat device's character in order to operate the~~ each character.